



News of the Week July 5, 2023

Prayers of the Week

Please remember in your prayers this week:

For LPA Laura Lee Ullrich, who is undergoing surgery on Friday.

Prayers of celebration for pastor Annela Rova and her husband Reese as they celebrate the birth of their son, Berom.

For retired pastor Louise Christensen, who is poor health.

Prayers of thanks to God for the life of Scott E. Bryan, a houseless man who was beaten and killed recently in Kalispell. Scott is a human being, someone's son, perhaps a brother, uncle, grandfather. He was certainly a friend to many. Let us join Bethlehem Lutheran in Kalispell in commending Scott, our neighbor, to the care and comfort of God's love.

For the Lutheran congregation in Wales, Alaska and their entire community as they gather to participate in Camp Noah after several deaths that have shocked the community including a polar bear attack that killed two people.

From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

Christ Lutheran Church, Big Sandy
Messiah Lutheran Church, Havre
First Lutheran Church, Havre

New Jersey Synod



Words From the Bishop:

"This Is My Song"

This is my song O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine. This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine; but other hearts in other lands are breathing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kingdoms, your kingdom come; on earth your will be done. O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you, and hearts united learn to live as one. So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations; myself I give you; let your will be done.

"This Is My Song" ELW 887 vs. 1 & 3



Planting Seeds

In March of 2006 a seed was planted at a Kogodus prison leader retreat at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. In October of 2007 Rev. Chris Flohr invited Rev. Ed. Nesselhuf to be a guest speaker at the Five Valleys Cluster fall gathering. Rev. Nesselhuf was the founder of Prison Congregations of America (PCA), which is the model Freedom in Christ uses for its ministry inside the Montana State Prison.

In 2008 a steering committee was formed to begin planning a prison ministry at Montana State Prison. After six years of cultivating the seed, the ministry became a Synodically Worshiping Community of the ELCA in March of 2012 and is a registered non-profit organization in the State of Montana.

Much has evolved over the last 11 years. In 2020 the board participated in a ministry review and discovered some of the ways we do business needed to change. During this time, the CO-VID pandemic struck, which blocked our ability to enter the prison and provide pastoral care, bible study, and worship services. We found we had to become creative in the ways to provide services to the men inside. As life started to return to "normal," we found ourselves with a lot of changes on how we do things inside the prison and our time spent inside was decreased significantly.

[Click here to read the full article from Freedom in Christ](#)



Wrestling with Colonization and the Processes of Colonialism to Strengthen Ministry

Online Class: *Part one of a two-part course presented by the Montana Synod Racial Justice Task Force*

**Wednesday mornings on Zoom
9:00 – 10:15 am**

September 6 - October 4

Cost: \$125 for this course. Part two will have a separate registration.

What is involved in becoming allies to Indigenous people and communities? It takes time and patience to build trusting, respectful relationships beginning with hearing about Indigenous life conditions, wants, desires, and needs. This course will lay a foundation for this work.

Topics include: identities—settler and Indigenous, a brief review of history, settler goals, rationalization and tools, and Indigenous traumas, resistance and resilience. Participants will be asked to read or watch videos in preparation for each Zoom session. Class sessions will include speakers, small group discussion and q & a.

Cost: \$126/Continuing education credit available.

To Register: <https://www.montanasynod.org/nrit.html>

Sermon Manuscripts Available

Montana Synod leaders have been providing manuscripts for use in congregations through the Lent and Easter seasons. We are happy to announce that these manuscripts will be provided throughout the entire year! Thank you to the leaders in the Montana Synod who are providing these manuscripts every week. They can be found and downloaded on the [Montana Synod website here](#).

[Click here to give to the Montana Synod](#)

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